

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1-14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) A method of annotating verb-clitic form segments in a lexicon, the method comprising:

defining, for a segment which is a clitic pair form segment, final segment data indicative of whether the segment must appear in a final position of any verb-clitic words formed using the segment; and  
annotating the segment using the defined final segment data;  
defining, for the segment, segment association data indicative of valid combinations of the segment with other types of segments to form verb-clitic words;  
annotating the segment using the segment association data;  
defining, for the segment, word break data indicative of a word break location in the clitic pair form segment; and  
annotating the segment using the word break data.

16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) The method of claim 4615, ~~wherein the segment is a clitic form segment, and~~ wherein the step of defining segment association data further comprises defining the segment association data such that it is indicative of classes of clitic hosts variants to which the clitic pair form segment can appropriately be attached.

18-19. (canceled)

20. (original) A method of combining first and second verb-clitic form segments from a lexicon to form a verb-clitic word, the method comprising:

- determining whether absence of final segment data associated with the first verb-clitic form segment indicates that the first verb-clitic form segment cannot be a final segment of the verb-clitic word;
- determining whether final segment data associated with the second verb-clitic form segment indicates that the second verb-clitic form segment must be the final segment of the verb-clitic word; and
- combining the first and second verb-clitic form segments from the lexicon to form the verb-clitic word only if it is determined that the first verb-clitic form segment cannot be the final segment and that the second verb-clitic form segment must be the final segment.

21. (original) The method of claim 20, and further comprising:

- determining from clitic class data associated with the respective first and second verb-clitic form segments whether the first and second verb-clitic form segments share at least one of a plurality of different clitic class associations; and
- combining the first and second verb-clitic form segments from the lexicon to form the verb-clitic word only if it is determined that the first and second verb-clitic form segments share at least one of the plurality of different clitic class associations.

22. (currently amended) A tangible computer storage medium having stored thereon computer readable instructions for performing steps of a method of annotating verb-clitic form segments in a lexicon, comprising:

defining, for a segment which is a clitic host variant, final segment data indicative of whether the segment must appear in a final position of any verb-clitic words formed using the segment; and  
annotating the segment using the defined final segment data;  
defining, for the segment, segment association data indicative of valid combinations of the segment with other types of segments to form verb-clitic words;  
annotating the segment using the segment association data;  
defining, for the segment, verification data indicative of whether the clitic host variant must be combined with a clitic segment to form a valid word; and  
annotating the segment using the verification data.

23. (canceled).

24. (currently amended) The tangible computer storage medium of claim 2322, ~~wherein the segment is a clitic form segment, and~~ wherein the step of defining segment association data further comprises defining the segment association data such that it is indicative of classes of clitic hosts variants to which the clitic form segment can appropriately be attached.

25-26. (canceled)